OIC's memorandum to UNHRC against Human Rights

3586. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) submitted a memorandum on Kashmir to the United Nations Human Rights Commission on the 27th February, 1995 at its ongoing session in Geneva, accusing India of depriving the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their basic right to self-determination and called the U. N. to investigate human rights violations in the State; and

(b) if so, the stand taken by India at this meet and how the OIC was rapped for its stand on Kashmir by the Indian delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The OIC had circulated a memorandum on Kashmir at the recent 51st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. The Government of India countered it by circulating a statement deeply regretting the memorandum circulated by OIC; which made a reference to Jammu and Kashmir; an integral part of India, and which ignored the fact that the current disturbed conditions in Jammu and Kashmir where clearly the result of terrorist activities aided and abetted from across the border.

Visit of All-Party Hurriyat Conference Leaders to casablanca

3587. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had allowed or implicitly agreed to the visit of two leaders of All-Party Hurriyat Conference, Jammu and Kashmir; namely Mirwaiz Omar Farooq and Maulvi Abbas Ansari. to Casablanca: at the time of the twenty seventh Conference of Foreibn Ministers of Islamic countries and the Seventh Islamic Summit in December, 1994.

(b) whether Government had a few months earlier prevented two other Hurriyat leaders from visiting Saudi Arabia, ostensibly for 'Umrah' (pilgrimage);

(c) if so, what are the reasons for change in Government's attitude;

(d) whether Government have seen reports that Mirwaiz Omar Farooq and Maulvi Abbas Ansari have been seeking funds, particularly from Rabita-alam-Islami and the World Association of Muslim Youth, for the so-called Kashmir Liberation Movement; and

(e) what action is being taken/contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The All-Party Hurriyat leaders, Mirwaiz Omah Farooq and Maulvi Abbas Ansari had travelled out of the country in their individual capacities during the months from December, 1994 to February 1995. These two individuals visited Morocco reportedly at the invitation of the OIC.

(c) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Government have reports to the effect that during their visit, the APHC leaders raised some funds. Government would take all steps necessary to fight militancy in Jammu and Kashmir, to counter anti-India propaganda; and would remain vigilant on the support, financial or material extended from Pakistan or from any other outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against the unity and integrity of the country

Cooperation among the Indian ocean countries

3588. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the South African President, during his visit to India in January 1995, mooted the idea of cooperation among the Indian Ocean committee;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the idea; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps, as a follow-up action and if so; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is positively inclined to consider suggestions for cooperation among the Indian Ocean Rim countries. It has initiated explanatory contacts with the interested countries to determine the possibility and score of such cooperation.

India recently participated in an International Meeting on the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative, of seven Indian Ocean Rim countries (viz., Australia, India; Kenya; Mauritius, Oman; Singapore and South Africa) convened by Mauritius at Fort Louis on March 29-31, 1990. The meeting agreed on the principles, objectives and future action programme of an Indian Ocean Rim Initiative beginning with these seven countries to promote cooperation primarily in trade, investment, science and technology, tourism and human resource development.

Negotiations with the US Defence Secretary on Nuclear Issue

3589. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any negotiations with the United States Defence Secretary during his recent visit to India;

(b) if so, what is the assessment of Government on the diplomatic activism of the USA for curbing nuclear and missile programme in the sub-continent, particularly India; and

(c) whether Government have recognised the need to convey to the United States of America that the Indian Nuclear and Missile Programmes are non-negotiable and irreversible; if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) During Defence Secretary, Dr. William Parry's visit to India from 12—14 January, 1995, discussions were held on ways to expand Indo-US defence cooperation as part of the overall strengthening and diversification of bilateral relation. An Agreed Minute on Defence Relations between the United States and India was signed on January 12, 1995.

(b) The US objective relating to non-proliferation in the South Asia region is stated to be to "pursue a step-by-step approach to cap, then over time reduce, and finally eliminate the possession of weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile delivery systems from the region". This has been the US position for some time and has not changed.

(c) The Government of India remains committed to the policy of determining the course of India's nuclear and missile programmes of the basis of India's national security requirements and of rejecting any discriminatory restrictions on our right to develop our indigenous capabilities in the frontier fields of science and technology. This has been conveyed clearly to the US and other Governments.

International Environmental Group's Comment of India's Nuclear Record

3590. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that India's nuclear non-proliferation record has been dubbed as one of the worst by an international environmental group, as reported in the Statesman, dated the 30th January, 1995; and